Mixing of Naptha with petrol

†1912. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Naptha is being mixed with petrol;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the smoke of Naptha-mixed petrol is dangerous from the point of view of health and environment; and

(d) if so, what are the bad effects of Naptha-mixed smoke on health and the details of steps taken by Government to check this adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Few cases of adulteration of fuels with Naptha and other solvents have been reported.

(c) Fuel adulteration increases the emissions of harmful pollutants in vehicle exhaust including hydrocarbons (HC) like benzene and Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Particulate Matter (PM), which are detrimental for human health and environment.

(d) To check the adulteration, the Government has initiated special vigilance drives along with regular as well as surprise inspection of retail outlets, joint inspection of retail outlets by the industry teams and surprise inspection by mobile laboratories. Introduction of filter paper test and density checks for fuel testing, Furfural doping of kerosene for public depot supply and introduction of blue dyeing of kerosene have also been introduced.

Cutting of trees

†1913. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various diseases are spreading due to pollution caused by cutting of trees for speeding up the work of construction of houses and buildings in rural regions for the urbanisation of several cities in the countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to stop the cutting of trees to control the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Trees absorb/trap pollutants (particulates and gases) to a large extent. As such cutting of trees may increase pollution load in the area and may pose health risk. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish a relationship between cutting of trees, pollution and spread of diseases.

(b) Steps being taken by the Government to stop cutting of trees are:

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and rules, guidelines thereof;

(ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.

(iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the State/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme called "Integrated Forest Protection Scheme" in operation since 2002-03, funds are provided to States and Union Territories primarily for strengthening of infrastructure for protection of forests from illicit felling, fires, encroachments etc.

(iv) A network of protected areas (National parks, Sanctuaries etc.) has been established.

Cruelty towards animals

1914. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered for cruelty towards animals during last one year; and

(b) the action taken against the guilty individuals?